

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

**Regular Session
Meeting Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: March 8, 2023

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School Library/Media Center

Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member
Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators Present: Mr. Richard G. Bedard Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Ms. Lizz Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street School
Mr. Patrick Mara, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Guests: Mrs. MaryAnn DeMaria, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mrs. Sarah Comeau, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mrs. Tamisha Thompson, R.E. Shaw School
Ms. Juliet Rodriguez, R.E. Shaw School
Mrs. Cheryl Schonberg, Elmwood Street School
Mr. Christopher Mainhart, Elmwood Street School

This meeting was recorded and broadcasted by Millbury's Public Access Channel.

At 7:20PM, Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lazzaro motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of February 22, 2023, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (3-0).

Mr. Lazzaro made a motion to accept the executive session minutes, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (3-0).

Report of the Administration

a. Presentation of Mid-Year i-Ready Growth

Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, joined by instructional coaches from each school, provided the Committee with an update on students' mid-year academic growth. She reviewed what the iReady diagnostic assessment is and how it is used.

Mrs. MaryAnn DeMaria and Mrs. Sarah Comeau of the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School reviewed growth data in grades 7-10 and noted trends. As a result of this data, the Jr. High will offer more enrichment opportunities for students to ensure consistent growth regardless of achievement. Mr. Lazzaro asked about the correlation between iReady and MCAS data. Ms. Boutiette confirmed that i-Ready does correlate closely to the MCAS and is a reliable predictor of MCAS results.

Mrs. Tamisha Thompson and Mrs. Juliet Rodriguez of R.E. Shaw School reviewed growth data in grades 3-6 and noted trends. As a result of this data, students will receive more practice at making sense of problems and persevere in solving them, among other interventions.

Mrs. Cheryl Schonberg and Mr. Christopher Mainhart of Elmwood Street School reviewed growth data in grades K-2 and noted trends. As a result of this data, they will ensure that all students have a growth plan no matter what achievement level they may earn. Mr. Lazzaro asked about the reinforcement of the curriculum and how to be sure that students are retaining information. Ms. Boutiette responded that tasks they do are engaging and make students want to complete the work. He asked what mechanisms we have in the classrooms to help students who subsequently fail. Ms. Boutiette spoke of the work that instructional coaches do to support classroom teachers in understanding and responding to growth data to ensure all students meet their growth targets.

Finance and Operations

a. Review of the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget

The Committee discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget, which it voted to accept at its February 22 meeting. Mrs. Nietupski, Mr. Bedard, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Wilbur will be attending the March 13 Finance Committee meeting to answer questions that members may have about the proposed budget.

b. Review of the Governor's Proposed Chapter 70 State Aid Increase

Mr. Bedard and Mr. Myers both spoke of the preliminary release of the Governor's Chapter 70 state aid funding amounts. Millbury's Chapter 70 increase is set at 8.53% or \$828,367 which represents approximately 80% of our entire FY'24 proposed \$1,040,491 increase. While an increase in Chapter 70 aid would not lower our proposed 4.26% request, it would provide funding for the Town to offset nearly all of it. If the Governor's proposal is accepted, the Town's share of the district's FY'24 increase would be \$212,124.

c. Revolving Account Summary Update

Mr. Bedard reviewed the revolving account summary, including accounts for summer school, Windle Field, Dorothy Manor, athletics, school choice, student parking, school lunch, lost books, school facilities, and aftercare, and noted that each account is in good standing.

d. Student activity Account Annual List of Sub Accounts

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting the annual listing of sub accounts for the student activity accounts at each of the three schools, a best practice recommended by auditors. He noted new sub accounts, including 6th grade activities, Class of 2026, and the Washington, DC 8th grade trip.

Ms. Bristol motioned to accept the student activity account annual list of sub accounts, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (3-0).

e. Donation from Millbury Federal Credit Union

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting a donation of \$795 from Millbury Federal Credit Union, which will be deposited to the high school student activity account.

Ms. Bristol motioned to accept the donation in the amount of \$795 from Millbury Federal Credit Union, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (3-0).

Unfinished Business

a. Report on the Raymond E. Shaw Building Project

Mr. Myers reviewed the current status of both phases of the Shaw School building project, noting that major sections of the playground area are complete. Because of the good weather recently, the new field will likely be turned over to the Town by next week.

New Business

Mrs. Nietupski stated that Mrs. Lagerholmn will be attending the next meeting to present a mid-year review of Mr. Myers's annual goals. She also requested that Mr. Myers invite Senator Moore to a future meeting to discuss the state budget.

Mr. Lazzaro requested that the policy subcommittee review the policy on public comment in light of a recent Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling that upholds "residents' right to be rude."


Executive Session


At 9:07, the Committee moved into Executive Session in accordance with MGI Chapter 30A, §21(a)3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the SEIU Local 888 because an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position and the Chair so declares. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mr. Lazzaro-YES, Ms. Bristol- YES, Mrs. Neitupski-YES


Adjourn

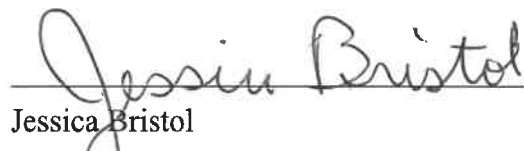
At 9:56PM, without further discussion, Ms. Bristol motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (3-0)

Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson


Nicholas Lazzaro


Jessica Bristol